

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 098231

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: MOPS, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJECT: ERSKINE'S REMARKS REGARDING UNIFIL'S
RESPONSIBILITIES; OTHER SUBJECTS

REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 5010; (B) JERUSALEM 1095; (C) JERUSALEM
1096; (D) STATE 79930

1. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ERSKINE WOULD BE WELL-ADVISED
TO AVOID OFF-HAND COMMENTS ON THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE
ISSUE OF UNIFIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES RESPECTING THE RETURN
OF ARMED AND OTHER PALESTINIANS TO SOUTHERN LEBANON.
SIILASVUO UNDERSTANDS THIS (REF B) AND WILL DOUBTLESS
MAKE THE POINT TO ERSKINE. WHILE AGREEING WITH EMBASSY'S
COMMENTS ON ERSKINE'S REMARKS, WE DO NOT THINK FURTHER
REPRESENTATIONS ARE CALLED FOR AT THIS JUNCTURE.

2. BASICALLY ERSKINE IS CORRECT IN HIS INTERPRETATION
OF UNIFIL'S MANDATE. THE FORCE IS REQUIRED TO USE ITS
BEST EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF FIGHTING AND
TO ENSURE THAT ITS AREA OF OPERATION IS NOT UTILIZED FOR
HOSTILE ACTIVITIES OF ANY KIND. IT FURTHER IS CHARGED
WITH RESTORING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY ASSISTING
THE GOL IN ENSURING THE RETURN OF ITS EFFECTIVE AUTHORITY
TO THE AREA. TO THIS END, IT SHALL "CONTROL MOVEMENT" IN
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ITS AREA OF OPERATIONS. THIS OBVIOUSLY MEANS, AMONG OTHER
THINGS, THAT THE UN MUST PREVENT THE REINTRODUCTION OF
WEAPONS AND ARMED PALESTINIANS INTO THE AREA; IT DOES NOT
MEAN THAT ALL PALESTINIANS ARE TO BE BARRED FROM RETURN-
ING, EXCEPT INSOFAR AS THE GOL SO REQUESTS IN ORDER TO
MAKE ITS AUTHORITY EFFECTIVE OR INSOFAR AS THE RETURN OF
PALESTINIANS THREATENS INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.
WHILE IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE HAD KEPT QUIET, THIS SEEMS
TO BE GENERALLY WHAT ERSKINE IS TRYING TO SAY.

3. FOR JERUSALEM: WE ASSUME SIILASVUO'S DESIRE TO USE
RAYAK FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SENEGALESE NO LONGER
HOLDS, GIVEN SYRIAN APPROVAL THAT THE TROOPS BE LANDED
IN DAMASCUS. IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO, YOU SHOULD INFORM
SIILASVUO OF THIS PLAN (WHICH HAD INFORMAL UN SECRETARIAT
BLESSING BEFORE THE APPROACH TO DAMASCUS WAS MADE.)

4. FOR JERUSALEM, BEIRUT AND USUN: WE NOTE FROM PARA 3
OF REF B THAT SIILASVUO WANTS MORE LEBANESE GENDARMES.
IT SEEMS TO US THAT ONE WAY OF GETTING MORE GENDARMES --
AND OF AIDING THE RETURN OF EFFECTIVE LEBANESE AUTHORITY
TO THE AREA -- MIGHT BE TO ATTACH A SUBSTANTIAL UN CIVIL

POLICE DETACHMENT TO UNIFIL, WHICH COULD PATROL THE AREA IN TWO-MAN PATROLS WITH LEBANESE GENDARMES. JOINT OPERATIONS WITH THE LEBANESE WOULD BE A MUST TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY THAT UN CIVIL POLICE WOULD BE USED BY THE GOL AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR INTRODUCING THEIR OWN GENDARMERIE. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO TAKE ANY HEAT OFF THE LEBANESE; ONE WAY TO HANDLE THIS MIGHT BE TO ESTABLISH A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF LEBANESE AND FOREIGN GENDARMES (PERHAPS ONE LEBANESE TO 5 OR 10 UN POLICEMEN.) UNICYP PROVIDES AN EXAMPLE OF A CIVIL POLICE CONTINGENT THAT WAS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN MAINTAINING PEACE BETWEEN TWO HOSTILE COMMUNITIES IN CYPRUS WHEN THEY WERE INTERMINGLED. IF COUNTRIES WITH MOBILE, HIGHLY-TRAINED GENDARMES WERE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE UNITS, OUR FEELING IS THAT THIS

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COULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL EFFECT BOTH ON STABILITY IN THE AREA AND REASSERTION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY. AS NOTED REF D, WE HAVE THOUGHT OF BELGIUM, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, IVORY COAST, MOROCCO AND THE SUDAN AS POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTORS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS OF EMBASSIES IN THESE COUNTRIES ON THEIR HOSTS' POSSIBLE WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE CIVIL POLICE UNITS TO UNIFIL, AS WELL AS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE UNITS FOR THIS KIND OF CARABINIERI-TYPE WORK. BEIRUT'S COMMENTS WOULD BE WELCOME ON LANGUAGE PROBLEMS FACED IN SOUTH -- PARTICULARLY THE UTILITY OF FRENCH, AS WELL AS ON MORE GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS. JERUSALEM AND USUN SHOULD EXPLORE CONCEPT WITH SIILASVUO AND UN SECRETARIAT, RESPECTIVELY, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT WE THINK IT HAS GOOD POSSIBILITIES BUT THAT THERE ARE

PROBLEMS STILL TO BE IRONED OUT.

CHRISTOPHER

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